WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method for selecting an annotation structure for use in entering annotation data, comprising:

receiving a request from a user to create an annotation for at least one data object identified by a set of identifying parameters; and

retrieving, from a configuration file, information identifying at least one annotation structure associated with the at least one data object based, at least in part, on the set of identifying parameters, the annotation structure defining one or more annotation fields.

2.   The method of claim 1, further comprising generating a graphical user interface, based on the at least one annotation structure, for receiving annotation data entered by a user.

3.   The method of claim 1, wherein the set of identifying parameters comprises at least at least one parameter indicating a data source and at least one parameter indicating an annotatable data object within the data source.

4.   The method of claim 1, wherein the set of identifying parameters comprises at least one parameter indicating a data source subtype specifying a particular type of the data source.

5.   The method of claim 1, wherein retrieving the information identifying at least one annotation structure associated with the at least one data object is based, at least in part, on a role of the user.

6.   The method of claim 5, wherein retrieving the information identifying the at least one annotation structure comprises searching the configuration file for information

identifying one or more annotation structures associated with the set of identified parameters and the role of the user.

7.　A method for annotating a set of disparate data points, comprising:

　　receiving a request from a user to create an annotation for a specified set of data points;

　　determining if the data points are of the same type;

　　if so, retrieving, from a configuration file, at least one annotation structure associated with the same type as the data points; and

　　generating, based on the annotation structure, an interface for entering annotation information to be associated with the specified set of data points.

8.　The method of claim 7, further comprising, if the data points are of differing types, retrieving, from a configuration file, at least one annotation structure associated with a set of data points of the same differing types.

9.　The method of claim 8, wherein retrieving the one or more annotation structures associated with the set of data points of the same differing types, comprises:

　　determining, for each differing type, if a number of data points in the specified set having that type falls within a range specified in the configuration file; and

　　if so, retrieving an identification of one or more annotation structures associated with the set of data points of the same differing types.

10.　The method of claim 7, wherein retrieving the one or more annotation structures comprises retrieving only annotation structures associated with a specified role of the user.

11.　A computer-readable medium containing an executable component for selecting an annotation structure for use in generating a form for entering annotation data which, when executed by a processor, performs operations comprising:

receiving a request from a user to create an annotation for at least one data point identified by a set of identifying parameters; and

retrieving, from a configuration file, information identifying at least one annotation structure associated with the at least one data point based, at least in part, on the set of identifying parameters, wherein the annotation structure defines one or more annotation fields.

12.   The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein retrieving the information identifying at least one annotation structure associated with the at least one data point is based, at least in part, on a credential of the user.

13.   The computer-readable medium of claim 12, wherein the credential of the user comprises an identified role of the user.

14.   The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the at least one data point comprises a plurality of data points.

15.   The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the plurality of data points comprises data points from different data sources.

16.   The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein retrieving, from a configuration file, information identifying at least one annotation structure associated with the at least one data object comprises:

determining if the plurality of data points are of differing types; and

if so, retrieving, from a configuration file, one or more annotation structures associated with a set of data points of the same differing types.

17.   The computer-readable medium of claim 16, wherein retrieving the one or more annotation structures, comprises:

determining, for each differing type, if a number of data points in the specified set having that type falls within a range specified in the configuration file; and

if so, retrieving an identification of one or more annotation structures associated with the set of data points of the same differing types.

18. A system for creating annotations for data points contained in one or more different type data sources, comprising:

a set of annotation structures, each specifying one or more annotation fields;

at least one configuration file associating annotation structures with sets of one or more annotatable data points; and

an annotation server configured to receive a request from a user to create an annotation for at least one data point identified by a set of identifying parameters and retrieve, from the configuration file, information identifying at least one annotation structure associated with the at least one data point based on the set of identifying parameters and a role of the user.

19. The system of claim 18, wherein the at least one data point comprises a plurality of data points from at least two different data sources.

20. The system of claim 18, wherein the at least one configuration file comprises:

at least one point map associating one or more annotation structures with a data point of a single type; and

at least one disparate point set map associating one or more annotation structures with a set of data points, wherein the set of data points comprises at least two different type data points.